

Bonhomme, Penny

From: Asnes, Andrea [andrea.asnes@yale.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 2:04 PM
To: PHC Testimony
Cc: Nancy Alderman
Subject: Testimony on Bill No. 54 "An Act Concerning the Use of Indoor Tanning Devices By Persons under Eighteen Years of Age."

Testimony of:

Andrea Asnes, MD

Bill SB 54

**TESTIMONY ON AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF INDOOR
TANNING DEVICES BY PERSONS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE**

SB No. 54

**Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health
Committee:**

My name is Andrea Asnes. I am a member of the faculty of the Yale School of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics and I also am a member of Environment and Human Health, Inc. a non-profit organization of ten members who are physicians and public health professionals in North Haven, CT.

I write to you to offer my strongest support of Bill SB 54 that, if passed, will protect children from a known carcinogen: tanning beds.

Tanning beds are dangerous to all people. In its Report on Carcinogens, 12th Edition, the US Department of Health and Human Services identifies exposure to sunlamps or sunbeds as "a known human carcinogen."
<http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/roc/twelfth/profiles/UltravioletRadiationRelatedExposures.pdf> (accessed 3/4/12). The American Cancer Society recommends that people avoid the use of tanning beds altogether.

<http://www.cancer.org/Cancer/news/News/tanning-beds-pose-serious-cancer-risk-agency-says> (accessed 3/4/12).

But I testify today as a pediatrician specifically on behalf of children.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has joined the World Health Organization, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Dermatology in supporting legislation banning the use of artificial tanning devices by people under the age of 18.

Simply put, tanning beds are the same as tobacco products in that they are both known to be carcinogenic. All states prohibit purchase of tobacco products by children under the age of 18.

Connecticut should act to protect children by limiting children's access to tanning parlors in the same way that, across our country, states have acted to limit children's access to tobacco.

In a recent report by the US Congress entitled "*False and Misleading Health Information Provided to Teens by the Indoor Tanning Industry*," the tanning industry's denial of the risks of tanning beds is made plain. Tanning salons routinely make false claims that indoor tanning is healthy and risk free.

<http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Tanning%20Investigation%20Report%202.1.12.pdf> (accessed 3/4/12).

It is clear that we cannot rely on the tanning industry to protect children, nor to provide parents with the information they need to act on behalf of their children.

As a pediatrician in Connecticut, I believe we must join the state of California, the first in our country to ban tanning bed use for children, and act to protect our own children from the known carcinogenic risk of tanning beds.

Thank you for your consideration of this crucial legislation.

Andrea Asnes, MD

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine

Member, Environment and Human Health, Inc.

March, 2012

Andrea Gottsegen Asnes, MD, MSW
Department of Pediatrics
Yale University School of Medicine
333 Cedar Street
PO Box 208064
New Haven, CT 06520-8064
203-688-2468
Fax 203-785-3932